



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Columbia Man Sentenced to 85 Years in Prison for Drug-Related, Non-Fatal Shooting**

One of two men convicted for a drug-related, non-fatal shooting in Columbia was sentenced to 85 years in prison yesterday. Erik D. Shird, 24, formerly of the 6100 block of Turnabout Lane in Columbia, was convicted last month on three counts of first-degree assault, along with firearm and drug trafficking charges following a week-long jury trial in Ellicott City.

On January 7, 2017, police were called to the 6100 block of Old Dobbin Lane at 5:08 p.m. for a report of a male subject who had been shot. Officers were quickly able to locate the victim and two suspects, and recover the handgun used in the attempted armed robbery. The victim, Kristopher Odle, then-37, of Stemmers Run Road in Baltimore was transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center and survived three gunshot wounds to his leg and arm. Odle testified that he had driven to a Long Reach apartment complex to sell four ounces of marijuana for \$900 after being contacted by Shird. Odle didn't bring the marijuana, admitting on the witness stand, that he didn't trust Shird. The lead detective testified that neither Shird nor his co-defendant possessed \$900 when they were arrested.

Acknowledging that Shird posed a threat to society based on two prior assault convictions and an attempted robbery between 2010-2012, Howard County Circuit Court Judge William V. Tucker sentenced Shird to 85 years in prison. Shird's defense attorney told the court that he will appeal the sentence.

Shird's co-defendant, Daries T. Williams, 22, of the 300 block of Joplin Street in Baltimore, will be sentenced on October 27 for his conviction on three counts of first-degree assault and firearm charges.

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